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imagery analysis report

Probable SS-N-2C Land-based Mobile Launcher Identified, Yugoslavia/USSR (S)



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PROBABLE SS-N-2C LAND-BASED MOBILE LAUNCHER IDENTIFIED, YUGOSLAVIA/USSR (S)

1. (S/WN) A land-based, mobile cruise missile launcher, of Soviet design and designated the Balaklava-01, has been identified at Split Naval Base Luka Lora, Yugoslavia [] Figure 1). The Balaklava-01 is probably a mobile, coastal-defense platform for the SS-N-2C antiship cruise missile. The unit consists of a rotatable, twin-tube launcher mounted on a MAZ-543SP chassis (Figures 2 and 3). The launch tubes are comparable in size to the SS-N-2C launch tubes mounted on the Yugoslavia-built Rade Konkar missile attack boat.

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2. (S/WN) Indications of system compatibility testing of the Balaklava-01 and the SS-N-2C were first observed at the Balaklava Missile Test Center, USSR [] A launch position for a land-based SS-N-2C test program was constructed at Balaklava in 1976. The position consisted of a 20- by 13-meter concrete launch pad with a control bunker (Figure 4). The earliest evidence of the Balaklava-01 system was seen on imagery of September 1977, when a launcher was observed at the propellant handling facility at Balaklava. In August 1978, two Balaklava-01 launchers were near the SS-N-2C land-based launch position.

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3. (S/WN) The Balaklava-01 first appeared in Yugoslavia in July 1979, when two of the launchers were parked under netting at Split Naval Base Luka Lora. Subsequently, the number of Balaklava-01 launchers observed at the base has varied. Three launchers were present on [] and a high count of four launchers were present on [] Split is the Yugoslavian Naval Headquarters.

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4. (S/WN) The SS-N-2C is an improved version of the SS-N-2 A/B with better performance characteristics, including a 50-nautical-mile range and sea-skimming attack capability.¹ The Balaklava-01 system probably operates in a manner similar to that of the SS-N-3 system and does not require a fixed or hardened launch position for field operations. The SS-N-2C is deployed on a variety of naval surface combatants. In addition to Yugoslavia, a number of satellite and third world countries, including India, Cuba, East Germany, and Libya, have imported the SS-N-2C from the USSR.¹ It is not known if the Balaklava-01 system has been exported to any of these countries. Deployment of this antishipping missile system on a land-based mobile launcher, independent of fixed launch positions, would provide a viable coastal defense system which could be expeditiously deployed to newly threatened areas.

DOCUMENT

1. DIA. DST-12104-049-79, *Naval Ship Characteristics—USSR, Combatants (U)* Nov 79 (TOP SECRET*)

*Extracted information is classified SECRET, []

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] Soviet Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [] or [] Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, []

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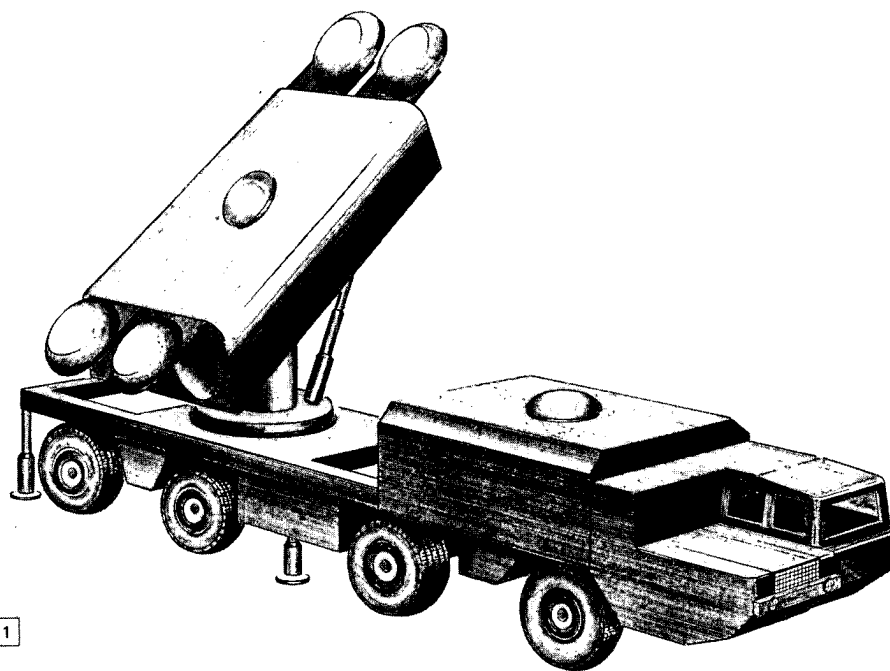
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FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF SPLIT NAVAL BASE LUKA LORA, YUGOSLAVIA, AND BALAKLAVA MISSILE TEST CENTER, USSR

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FIGURE 3. CONCEPTUAL DRAWING OF THE BALAKLAVA-01 CRUISE MISSILE LAUNCHER

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